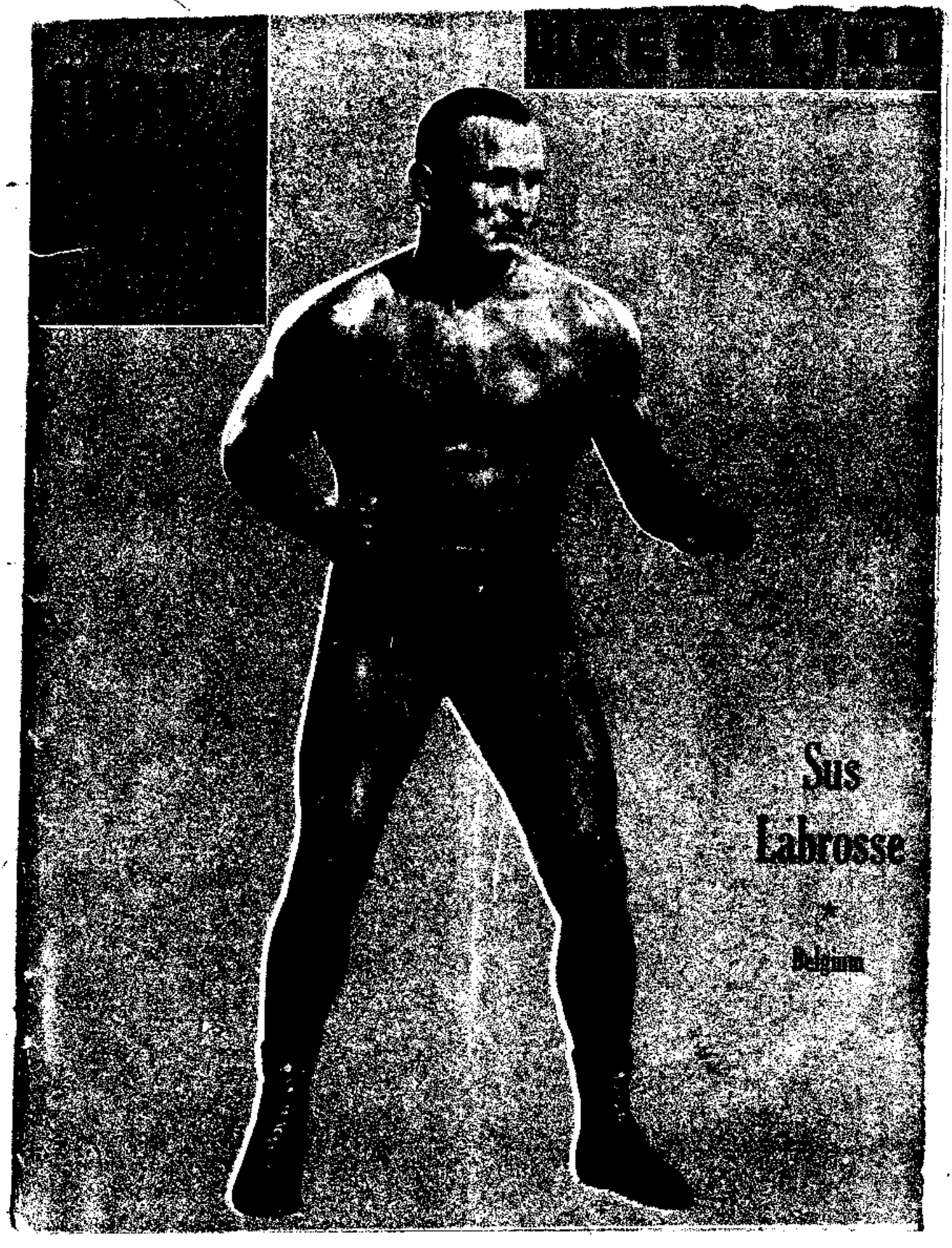
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The World's Leading Wrestling Journal

VOL. 4, No. 13 Published Monthly

Editor-in-Chief:
NORMAN F. BERRY.

Editorial Office:
**Economic Chambers,
King Cross,
Halifax,
England.**

All articles and photographs submitted to our office should be accompanied by a S.A.E. for return if not accepted for publication.

In the event of difficulty in obtaining a regular copy of MAT, ask your newsagent to write us at the above address.

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Promoters, Managers, Wrestlers and Wrestling Fans all over the world, are asked to co-operate with us in presenting news and pictures of world wrestling to the wrestling world. Send us your pictures and stories. MAT magazine leads the rest in its presentation of wrestling items, and it is due to the co-operation of thousands of individuals of similar interest that we are able to publish the variety and number of interesting items and pictures month by month. YOUR co-operation is what we want. You may think it doesn't matter. It does matter. SEND US YOUR ITEMS ALONG TO-DAY.

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Subscriptions are accepted by us, and the rates of subscriptions are as follows:—

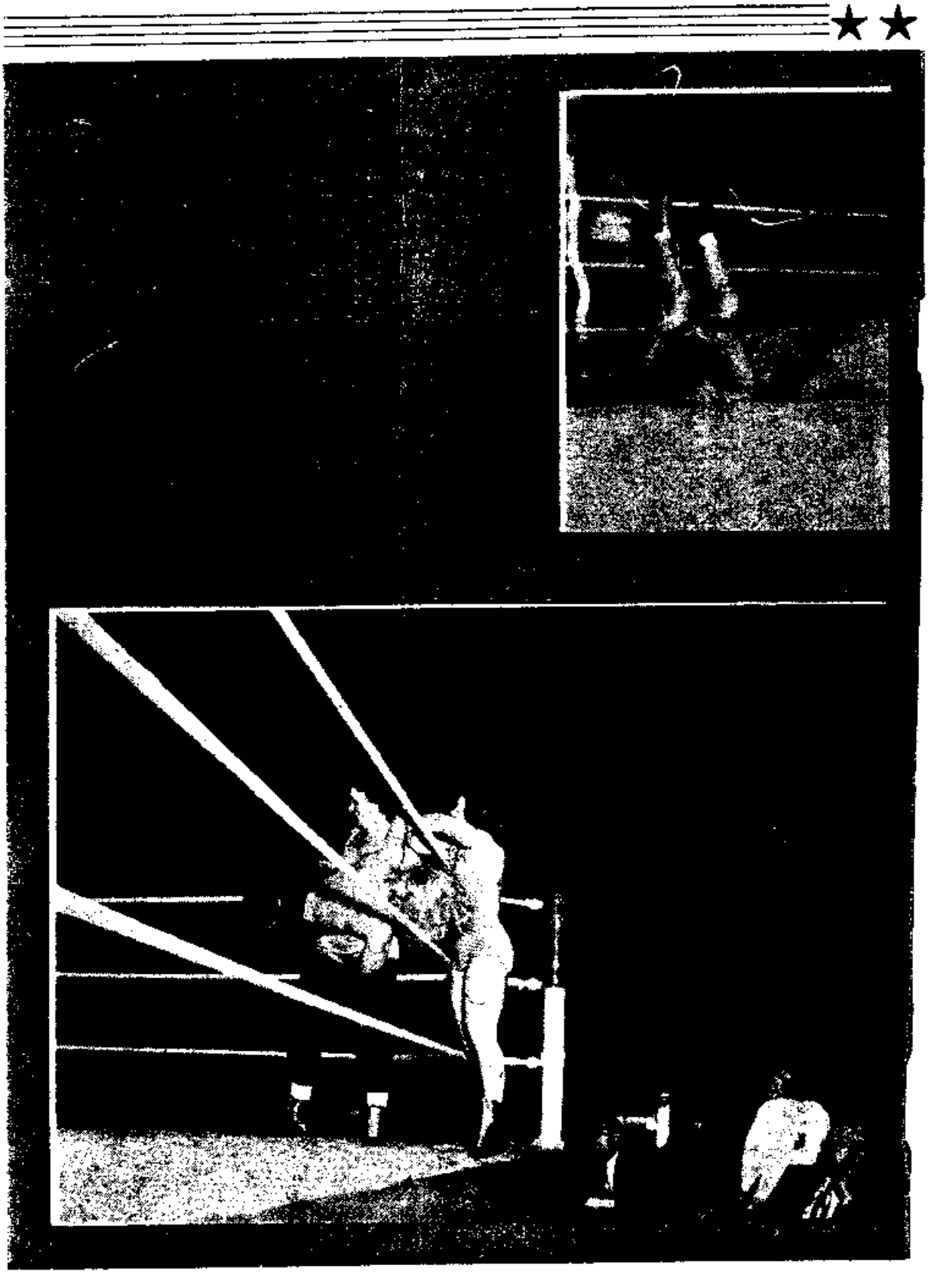
Great Britain, 14/- per annum ,post free.
Canada and U.S.A., 3 Dollars per annum, post free.

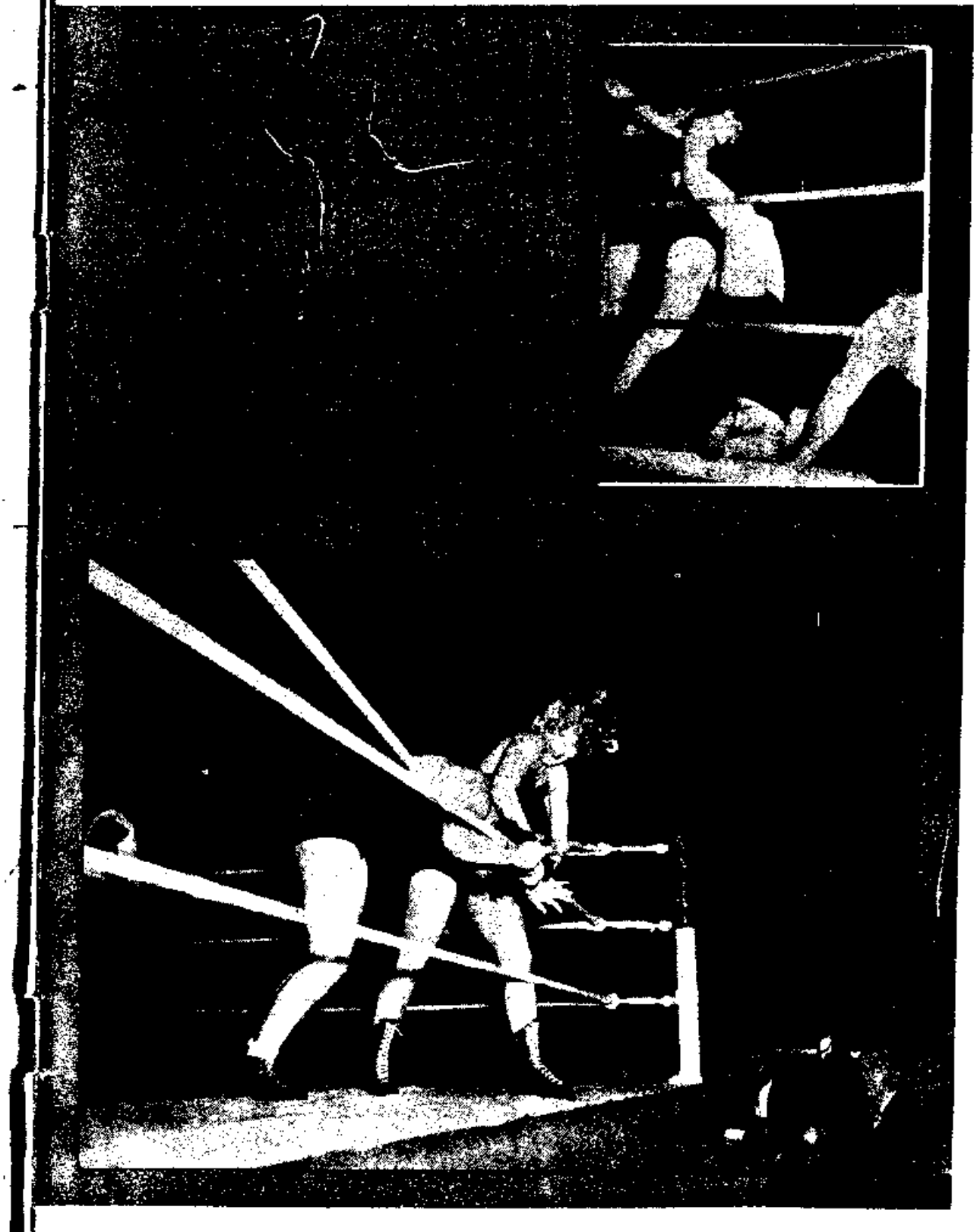
Rates for other countries are available on written application at our office.

Distributive agencies in all parts of Great Britain and North America are invited to contact us with a view to the wider distribution of MAT.

Correspondence on wrestling matters from all parts of the world is welcome at our office.

Published by Wrestling News & Views Ltd., Halifax, England.
Printed by Fawcett, Greenwood & Co. Ltd., Halifax,





Glasgow Gossip!

by SANDY SIMPSON

MOST people in Scotland go a bundle on **Johnny Stead.** They like his clean, sporting style, his agility at getting out of the most vice-like hold, and his ability to hand it out as well as take it.

These are the qualities that have hoisted Johnny into the top popularity bracket.

And just to show that the new champ can hand out the bouquets as well as the other stuff, I want you to know what he thinks of you.

"Scots are not a dead crowd. It's a pleasure to wrestle before them." That was how the man himself described you to me in his dressing at St. Mungo Halls, Glasgow.

* * *

Recently colleague W. H. Hodkinson wrote a piece about Wrestling Humour.

While copies of **MAT** were being sold round the ring **Les Kellett** was battling on the other side of the ropes with his opponent.

Les had a vicious side head chancery on his younger opponent when one of the gallery boys boomed forth: "Hey, Les, the lad's name is Eric, not earache."

* * *

What's the big tie-up between wrestling and speedway?

First, **Flash Barker,** the Canadian Adonis, packs up the cinders for the mat and now there are signs that the tide has turned.

Bill Longley, the pocket Hercules of the New Cross, London, speedway team, has taken to wrestling.

Listen to what Clem Macartney writes in the Speedway Gazette: "Only the fully fit can withstand the strains and rigours of a seven months' season . . . Some riders take the trouble to see that they are in good physical shape by the time a new season comes along. One of them is Bill Longley . . . ."

He is training in a London gymnasium under middleweight, **Ron Harrison.**

Now Junior Bainbridge, Australian star of Glasgow Tigers, asks me to introduce him to wrestling. He's another pint-sized tough man who will try anything. If he takes up wrestling, however, he will find that it is not a sport you can chance with a partially healed fracture of the collar bone although he has ridden a speedway machine in that condition.

* * *

There are times when I wish some of the promoters would follow me around as I might lead them to something.

Scotland has already produced some more than promising matmen and from what I saw at some amateur championships recently I am confident that there is still more valuable talent in the country.

The number of former amateurs who have already made good in the paid ranks has been great enough to justify a little more attention to the Scots amateurs.

* * *

Two men who hope to win more recruits for the professional mat are **Andy Anderson** and **Ernie Robertson** of Edinburgh.

They are going ahead with their plans to launch a physical fitness gym in Edinburgh, and I'm sure they won't allow the old rivalry between Edinburgh and Glasgow to stand in the way of a good prospect from the West looking in there when he can make it.

* * *

A tip-off to the over curious. Never ask a wrestler to demonstrate a grip on you, take it for granted.

I asked **Sandy Orford** the effect of one grip. He told me that you could break a finger with it. Then he showed me what he meant. **Could** break a finger? He darned nearly **did!**

As one Sandy to another too, I ask you, folks!

* * *

TAKE off your hats to **Les Kellet,** folks. He was the only personality man who could have calmed so quickly a Glasgow crowd, carried away, by the **Murray-Royal** clash in **St. Mungo Halls.**

True, it was a thriller the way Bert took such heavy punishment then did an Oliver Twist act and came back for more to force a draw.

Talking of Aberdeen though, I saw great possibilities in **Jack Hunter** when he made his debut. I reckon it isn't a very far cry for Jack between Aberdeen and Glasgow. He just lies with his feet in one and his head's just about in the other!!

They say he's a six and a half footer, but he certainly looks more. And he also has a real agricultural style. During the two rounds it took him to deliver a k.o. one worthy remarked to me, "Ye can see he's a richt country lad. He jist handles you man like a sack o' tatties." That was a fairly accurate description too!

In my job of digging up the truth that's stranger than fiction you certainly get some amazing facts.

For example, here's the story of the knee bandage **Tony Lawrence** wore for a bout.

He knew his knee was not right. He learned it from a table! After having a meal in a restaurant he got up to leave, but in doing so tapped his ankle on the table leg. The pain shot up his leg and he folded up. But the bout, like the show, must go on, so the knee bandage was essential.

Don't think that these wrestlers just walk into the ring, play about as they like, collect their cash and quit. It's a much more serious business to them. When I went into the dressing room to have a word with **Jack Dempsey** I found him the most difficult man to get at bar Danny Kaye's manager, Eddie Dukoff.

Reason is that Jack was doing handstands on the edge of a table to limber up. Try interviewing someone upside down and see how you get on, if you don't believe me.

I DO like the way wrestling fans hold together: There are a few unfortunate people doomed to spend their lives in wheel chairs, yet the other fans are always willing to lend a hand on the steps leading to and from the hall.

I DON'T like the way some of the galleryites air their suspicions that a good looking bill for the following week will be studied with reserves. It once happened that three were necessary and the promoters were never allowed to forget it. Nor-

On the Way Out . . .

BERT ASSIRATI, well known British heavyweight wrestler, is seen here being assisted from the ring when defeated by IVAN MARTINSEN of Denmark.

GLASGOW GOSSIP (continued)

mally the bill goes on as advertised even when transport systems, the Post Office, telephone services and many industrial concerns are at a standstill because of 'flu.

Would the complainers take the trouble to drop the management a note if they were unable to come? I doubt it.

Therefore, let us hand a bouquet to the promoters, management and the wrestlers themselves for carrying on so well where so many others failed. Perhaps the secret is physical fitness.

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★ Cecelia Blevins

A COLLEGE student. A practical nurse. A professional girl wrestler. Do they blend, those careers? You may say they don't, but they do insofar as Cecelia Blevins in concerned. She has had all three experiences and they have meshed, event by event, into one smashingly successful career—that of one of the top-notch stars of professional girls wrestling.

Cecelia Blevins is a full-blooded Cherokee Indian girl and while some careers must consume years before full development, she has seen all three foster and develop in one place—Tulsa, Oklahoma.

An attractive, pleasant girl, she is 25 years of age with jet black hair and brown eyes. She is five foot, six inches tall and regarded as one of the finest proportioned athletes in the toughest of sports. Cecelia Blevins attended the Indian Government School at Eufalua, Oklahoma, after the usual grade schooling. While her grandparents, who are still living, were dyed in the wool Indians with their colourful regalia, her parents were better schooled and educated. Her mother, in fact, taught grade schodl at McAllister, Oklahoma, and her father was a mine inspector of zinc, copper and lead. Both have passed into the Great Beyond. Her father died of lead poisoning.

It was her father's illness that prompted her to take up nursing. He lingered long. As a matter of fact, she did double duty for many, many months, as a student and as a nurse, but she finished her college career at Bacomba College, near Muscogee, in less than three years.

After graduating she took up practical nursing and, perhaps, would have continued except for the hand of fate. She struck up a friendship with Jack Gott, wrestling instructor for the Tulsa, Okla., Police Dept., and that's how she got the wrestling bug. It bit her badly after seeing professionals in action many times in her home town. It stung so deeply that she took it up seriously, starting in warm-up matches with Gott, who encouraged her to try it professionally. Mildred Burke's appearance in Tulsa really fired her ambitions, however, just as Mildred has stirred the ambitions in many other girls who are in the sport to-day. That she has made good at it, professionally, can be answered in but a few words. She has been a star for years. In fact, she's wrestled professionally for nine years, starting at Grove, Okla.

Cecelia's success in the Oklahoma territory prompted her to try the big-time cities. Her first top-notch match was under the promotion of Jim Crockett in Greensboro, N.C. She must have clicked with a bang there because it wasn't long before Cecelia was on the Big Wheel, meeting the best in the sport and collecting a pretty penny for her efforts.

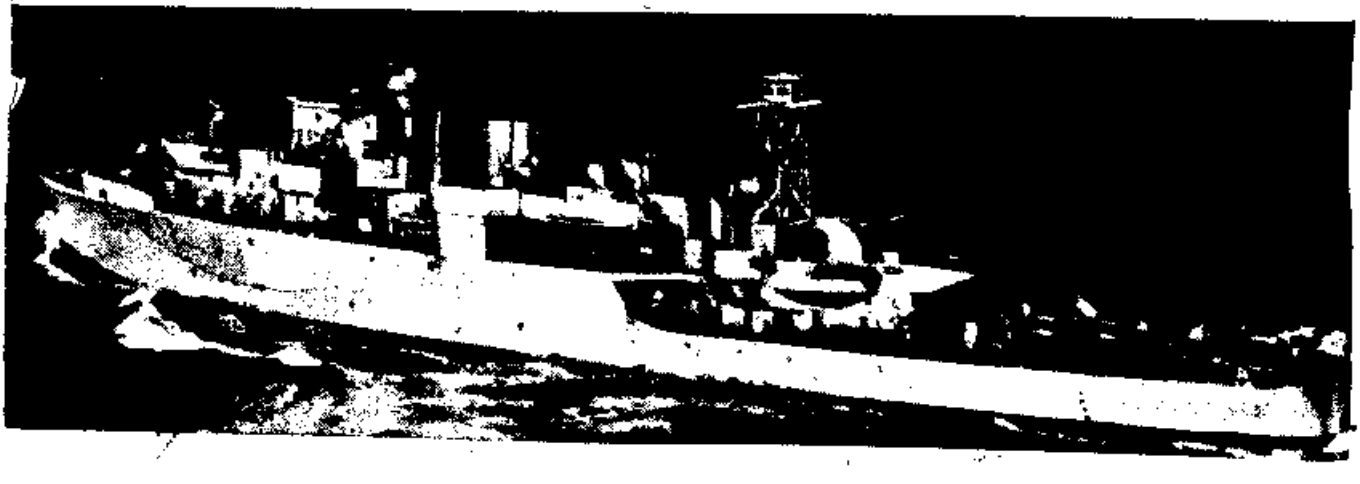
That she has reached the highspots of the sport is proved by the fact that she is matched with the best—the Burkes, the Hilds, the Stewarts, the Vianns, the Kaufmanns and Byers, etc. You know you're in a match any time you oppose those girls, especially Champion Mildred Burke.

"Oh, I have had my share of yelts, bruises and fractures," says the dark haired beauty, "but what of it? I've had the experience of being a practical nurse and I am my best diagnostician. After all, you must work hard, expect some bruises now and then, to earn the kind of money I earn. And I think I am one of the heavier paid wrestlers," says Cecelia. "After all, you know we Blevins' are of a stern stock. Do you know my great grandmother is still living, without complaints of any illness. She's only 105 years young. My grandmother is a mere 95! Me, I'm only a child, but I can stand the rough going. I have two sisters I am proud of and my brother is a stern fellow, too. My brother, Dolphus, is a farmer in Oklahoma, and my sister, Loreen, is a nurse. She is only a 95 pounder but she can handle herself very well. She has followed me in a nursing career and I'm proud of her war work. My other sister, June, is a musician. She has played in many recitals in the South-West. Neither of my sisters, however, aspire to be a girl wrestler. One in the family is enough.

Cecelia has been wrestling since 1940, but does she prefer to go back to practical nursing? "No," says Cecelia, "the only nursing I want to do now is—nurse a good,fat, healthy bankroll which wrestling provides me. When I tuck my uniform away, I may go back to it—but not until then. That time, however, is too far away," says Cecelia Blevins, a very pleasant personality in the world of sportsdom.

We present pictures and story of Alan Colbeck, a young man from Wakefield, Yorkshire, who is one of the outstanding successes of the British ring. He served in H.M. Navy in the Mediterranean during the war, and on his return to civilian life took up training once more in preparation for the professional wrestling ring. This modest young man, who was British Lightweight Champion earlier on in his career, moved up into the Welterweight Class, and at Earl's Court, London last year, he became —

Welterweight Champion of Great Britain



YOUNG ALAN COLBECK of Wakefield has not been in professional wrestling as long as others I could mention, but he has made just as big an impact as any of them—and bigger than most! In the late war he served in the Royal Navy in the Mediterranean theatre of operations and had thrilling experiences against the Germans—especially round the island of Crete. The accompanying pictures show him with some of the boys with whom he served, a grand bunch according to Alan.

How then did he make his entry into the wrestling world you may ask? He was not wrestling before 1946, so obviously he was out of the Navy before he entered the ring for the first time. Quite right! As a matter of fact, Alan came into the sport via a gymnasium situated just outside Wakefield and owned by that great Yorkshire heavyweight Ernest Baldwin. It was Ernie, always on the look-out for young talent and always eager to give a helping hand to anyone keen enough and determined enough to spend arduous hours training for this man's sport, who saw in Alan the makings of a first-class wrestler. He persuaded Alan to attend his gymnasium—a suggestion to which Alan quickly responded—and thus began the ascent of one of the brightest stars in British wrestling. But it was not an uninterrupted rise, for this was the period in which the German armies were implementing their racial theories upon other European nations, proving their 'superiority' by the mass extermination of countless thousands of defenceless women and children whose only crime was that they happened to be Jewish. And like many others, Alan was called upon to resist this philosophy of the 'herrenvolk' and away he went to join the Royal Navy.

As soon as he returned home he was back in training with Ernie Baldwin, and in due course he made his debut at the Rollerhome, Wakefield. It was evident to the fans even at this early stage that here was something out of the ordinary. He gave a brilliant exhibition of wrestling that thrilled the large crowd that had come along to see him in his first contest. To those who knew where and who had taken him in hand it was no surprise, for there is no man in Europe to-day with a better knowledge of wrestling than Ernest Baldwin, and it must have been very gratifying to him that night as he sat at the ringside and watched his protege match hold for hold with his more experienced opponent and emerge winner.

From that day on, Alan has never looked back. He has been British Lightweight Champion, but increasing weight pushed him up into the Welterweight class. He wrestled Les Stent of Doncaster at Earl's Court last year under Lord Mount-Evans Rules and won the British Welterweight Championship. He still holds this title. He is a polished wrestler, and will take a lot of moving from the top of the Welterweight tree. Some fans say he is a little too 'cock-sure' of himself, others say he isn't, but all agree that he has the temperament and ability required of a top flight wrestler.

His future plans? He hopes to retain his title when called upon to defend it, and if weight forces him up still further—and this is a distinct possibility with Alan—he aims on being Champion there, too! And this is not mere 'swank' either, for Alan is really one of the 'greats' of the wrestling world.

He's a good looking lad with good looking prospects, and has a big following up and down the country. Offers from all parts of Europe arrive regularly, and he has just received an open contract to wrestle in India and Malaya, with free transport and the cash deposited in an English bank before he leaves the country. "It's a big offer," says Alan, "and I have asked for time to consider it. I am not too keen on travelling that far, but—well, I am not a professional, and I cannot as yet afford to turn down such offers without serious thought."

Whether you go or not Alan, you will always be sure of a big welcome in rings at home or abroad, for the fans love your dynamic style.

LATE NEWS.—With eliminating contests taking place at Earl's Court on April 2nd to find a challenger for his title, Alan has had to shelve all plans for this trip for the time being.

K. Lester.

BOB ADESSKY touted as POTENTIAL CHAMPION!

By JOE GOLLOB, (Editor Canadian Sports Press News)

OF the many qualities requisite to professional wrestling success, speed, agility, strength and an original and pleasing style of grappling are the absolute essentials to a super-gripster. Add to the above, the sure-fire combination of a young man determined to achieve universal recognition as a mat star and the perfectly conditioned body to win this top ranking with, and the answer is **Bob Adessky** of Montreal, as we find him to-day.

Born in Montreal, the Metropolis of Canada, Adessky first saw the light of day twenty-four years ago. One of three boys, the sharp-shooting and versatile youngster attended Mount Royal and Bancroft public schools, then followed a period of study and training at the popular Montreal Technical Academy. Midst battling with his books, Canada's most promising ring star of 1950 felt the urge to compete in a variety of athletic endeavours. Like the average hardy Quebecois, Adessky took to ice skating and became a better-than-most hockey player. Swimming, bob-sledding, ski-ing, canoeing, basketball and gymnastics, all helped in rounding out the early musculature of Bob Adessky. But his attendances at the Montreal Y.M.H.A.'s amateur wrestling classes held the greatest fascination for the eager kid of twelve in whom mat coach Harry Yaphe took such a personal interest. It was but a short while before all thoughts of active competition in sports centred on wrestling alone. One hundred and ninety-five mat clashes followed in the

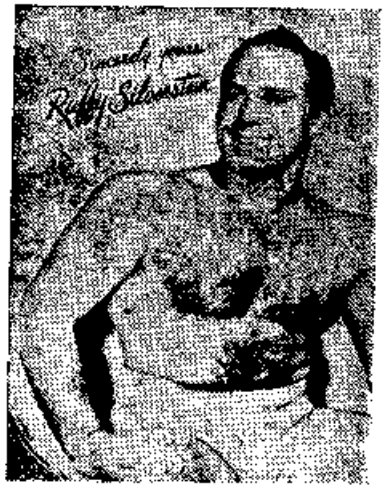
ranks of the simon-pures, each succeeding bout producing sky-high praise from Chief Coach Yaphe, by this time receiving aid in the training of Adessky from veterans in the pro brigade like Mike Demitre and Bull Texas. His stint in the "amateurs," from the age of 12 until his 20th birthday, brought honours and glory galore to the good-looking Hebrew exponent of grips. A British Empire Games winner, twice named Canada's outstanding amateur wrestler, holder of Province of Quebec and Ontario Provincial Titles, Adessky gained weight and experience through the years while mastering the many brilliant opponents tossed at him in Canada and the United States. In 1946, after winning the Canadian Amateur Championship in the 191lb. class, Bob Adessky decided he was ready for the best of professional opposition. His entry to the monied ranks was the advent of a bright new star on the wrestling horizon, for in young Bob Adessky we find a future "great," a potential world champion in the true sense of the word.

To date, with 418 professional contests under his belt, and winner of 387 out of this number, the Montrealer is noted for his aggressive, will-to-win type of mat milling. A rough, tough, walloping scrapper whom fans love to watch notwithstanding his wild and wooly tactics once the gong sounds the "on your own" signal, the Canadian star weighs 219lbs. with a height of 6ft. 2in. that goes well with a 78in. reach. Having met many grappling artists of international repute, he has shown the capability of handling all sorts of ring rivals. A smooth, scientific and colourful knowledge of all holds, plus an amazing array of unorthodox grips and the cool, methodical fashion in which he goes about conquering an opponent has placed BOB ADESSKY in the front ranks of modern day mat miracle men. Destined to reach the pinnacle of fame throughout the world long before he finally hangs up his trunks, sports writers everywhere have already labelled Adessky "The Perfect Specimen," due to his Adonis-like body that denotes 100 per cent physical perfection. Strangely enough, young Bob Adessky does not believe this fine physical stature can be attributed to his participation in all sorts of sports since childhood. His explanation is summed up in the one word "WEIGHTLIFTING." Indeed, as a weightlifter, Adessky could hold his own in any bodybuilding group. In a recent Montreal competition, Adessky was persuaded to give a weightlifting and strength display before a mammoth crowd of enthusiasts. His feats of strength will long be remembered as a result. With a 150lb. man hanging from his waist, Bob Adessky managed to chin himself without apparent effort. This was followed by lifting 215 pounds overhead with one arm and lifting 600 pounds to his waist in the dead lift. He performed the knee bend with 350 pounds on his back five times, and five push-ups with 190lbs. on his back. In addition he astonished the onlookers with a lift of 350 pounds overhead with two arms, in the "clean and jerk" and a leg press, fifteen times, with 1000 pounds. Adessky is one of the very few men in the world to-day who can do the one-arm chin although weighing over 200 pounds.

Two years ago Adessky originated the "Head-Snapper," a hold now prohibited by most athletic commissions, and made the sport headlines by his application of this dangerous and crippling hold. A recapitalutation of Adessky's record reads like a "who's who" of present day wrestling. For he has met the best in many territories, defeated the topmost talent in every area where he has performed. Bob Adessky, however, is not one to rest on mat achievements alone. Being a "smart cookie," to say the least, he has built up a prosperous refrigeration and air-conditioning business in his native Montreal and when not away from home base is busily engaged in attending to his business enterprise. He also delights in directing a well-attended class of bodybuilding adherents. This he does on a voluntary basis and his proteges have to date won countless awards in the field of weightlifting....Indeed, whenever muscle-men come under discussion in Eastern Canada, Adessky will usually be the man mentioned as the leading director-trainer.

Busy, what with one thing or another when not actually on tour as an ace gripster, Bob Adessky nevertheless finds time to look after his prize collection of world-famous stamps. Known as an avid philatelist, he has turned down offers exceeding $20,000 for his grand array of postage stamps gathered over a period of thirteen years. Another hobby of his is a study of chiropody. He has to his credit now diplomas in anatomy, physiology and pathology and has ambitions to graduate during the coming year as a licensed chiropodist. Fishing and swimming form his main recreational pastimes, although he occasionally partakes of a few ski-ing week-ends in the glorious Canadian Laurentian Mountains every winter.

Adessky's favourite holds are the rolling short-arm scissors, Irish whip, the "Head-snapper" (when he can get away with it) and his latest being another "original" which he calls "the clincher." In short, promoters everywhere rave about Montreal's Bob Adessky, a guy that is headed for big things in the wrestling sport, a fellow you must see when next he appears in your district. He combines thrills and chills, science, flashes of the Great Gotch, and everything one can ever hope to see in a wrestler to-day where the trend is to favour the handsome young man with a bag of tricks. At any rate he's our bet for world championship honours before long.



RUFFY SILVERSTEIN, popular Jewish heavyweight and outstanding sportsman.

BUDDY ROGERS

BUDDY (Nature Boy) ROGERS, also known as Dutch Rhode, is the fabulous man of wrestling. Born in Camden, N.J., he started wrestling in 1942 and was a headliner in his first year of wrestling and has been ever since. He was the first man responsible for wrestling going into the big brackets at the box office and as he went on ten thousand dollar gates became commonplace. With the advent of television Buddy Rogers got bigger than before and to-day certainly ranks with the top wrestlers in the country. His return to the East is welcome news to thousands of wrestling fans. It was around here that he started his success and he's very happy to be back among the followers of the sport who, after all, were responsible for making him one of the outstanding stars of the wrestling world.

LOU THESZ

by JERRY FORD

LOU THESZ was born on April 26th, 1916, in St. Louis, Missouri, from a poor family. Lou's father was a blacksmith and later became a wrestling promoter.

Lou is 6ft. 1in., weighs 235lbs., and is currently recognised at National Wrestling Alliance Heavyweight Champion. He won this title in 1948 and has defended it close on 200 times successfully.

Lou has been wrestling professionally for 15 years during which time he has met the top men in his field. In the year 1950 Thesz defended his title close on 30 times and was undefeated.

His favourite hold is the airplane spin, yet the majority of the matches he wins he does with a variety of holds and manouevres. He is probably the most aggressive and fearless wrestler in the ring to-day. His ability to absorb punishment as well as to inflict it is a main factor which has made Thesz the wearer of a diamond studded belt which symbolises his N.W.A. Championship and offers a target for any heavyweight wrestler in the country to aim for.

His rough yet clean style of wrestling together with his good sportsmanship and tremendous personality have made him a very popular champion and is responsible for his ability to draw tremendous crowds. Always a crowd pleaser, Thesz defends his title without any prejudice toward top notchers.

Thesz is a great champion. He travels from the East coast to the West coast taking on as many comers as possible. He has defended his championship for 155 times in a row without a defeat. For 3 years Lou has been undefeated. His main ambition is to become undisputed champion of the United States and Canada. Not many wrestlers can match the tremendous record and reputation that Lou has made for himself.

As far as this writer in concerned Lou Thesz is the greatest wrestler in the world to-day. Lou is now managed by one-time champion Ed "Strangler" Lewis and Ed has also agreed with us on the fact that Thesz in uncrowned champion. Ed will not only manage Thesz but will teach him some tricks, and is hoping that Lou will soon be recognised as champion by all organisations in the United States.

PHIL SIKI is what you would call a big man—in more ways than one. He stands well over 6ft. and weighs around the 18½ stone mark. But it's not only big in the body that he is, no sir! He was born in Trinidad in the British West Indies and studied at Queen's Royal College, the 'Cambridge' of the West Indies. Later he came over to England where he took his matriculation with the greatest of ease and went on to St. Bartholomew's Hospital to study medicine.

After being there for nearly two years he had to cancel his studies due to his father's business failing during one of the worst slumps the cocoa market has ever experienced, and thus ended one of the most promising medical careers.

But Phil was not 'down and out.' Way back over the ocean in Trinidad he had been something of a wrestler. That's putting it mild, for he actually was a champion wrestler. But wrestling had taken second place when he embarked on a medical career. Now he turned once more to his old love, and it was not long before he dropped in at Professor Bill Klein's gym in London to get himself in shape once more. This was a gym where all the big names of wrestling frequented, and it was not long before some of the big names of wrestling were beginning to wonder who this Siki chap was. He could hold his own with the best of them, and his strength was something to be marvelled at.

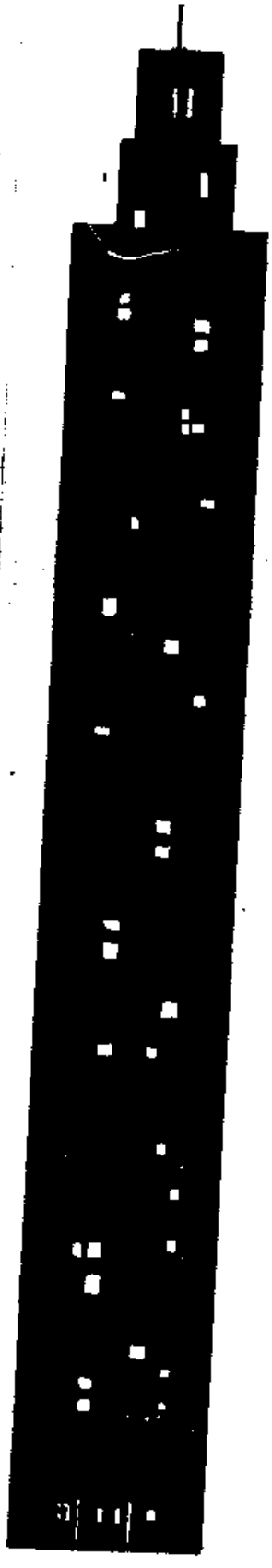
When he had his first pro fight in England he had the misfortune to injure himself, and was out of wrestling for two months. But he came back, and has done very well since, establishing himself throughout Europe. He has wrestled in Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and many other countries. Last year in Germany he competed in an international tournament in which all the leading wrestlers took part, and afterwards he broadcast over the British Forces Network. In Hanover, the press called him the 'darling of Hanover' due to his tremendous popularity there. He has also given commentaries over the air.

There's a lot more in the history of this great mat artist that we haven't time or space to go into just now, but you can take it from us that Phil Siki is a wrestler no one should miss seeing.

B.N.

Phil all out for a fall in a recent contest. He missed it, but went on to win by K.O. in the following round.

Off to yet another European capital, Phil steps aboard a B.E.A. plane at London Airport.



Wrestling Newsreel

By JERRY FORD.

WE were talking with a G.I. back from Japan. We asked him what the top sport is there and he told us Sumo wrestling. Crowds of thirty to fifty thousand are not uncommon in Japan. Wrestling in Japan is a religious sport. Before the wrestling begins the grappler must observe five religious rules. (1) He rinses his mouth before the bout; (2) Wipes his mouth with a special piece of rice paper; (3) Throws salt to appease the Gods of the arena; (4) Pays his respect to his opponent; (5) Stamp his feet—"Siko" as they call it—in a form of defiance.

One of the greatest athletes of all time, **Bronko Nagurski**, is still going great as a wrestler. Bronko is recognised as individual Heavyweight Champion of Minnesota. Bronko received more trophies than any other athletic star of the 20's.

The Great Moto has stirred up quite a controversy with his nerve hold. Wrestlers in the Chicago area have secretly a campaign to have the hold declared illegal.

Sheik Lawrence, sensational Arabian champion, is currently campaigning in Texas. Sheik has been in this country years and has quite a following.

Rolland Meeker was a trapeze man in his father's circus, but tells us he gave it up because he wanted to take up a profession more exciting. To-day Rolland is one of the top wrestlers in the east.

Orville Brown, former N.W.A. Champion, who was injured in an automobile accident a year and half ago, has been managing a youngster named **Dennis Clary**. When asked about making a comeback, Orville replied: "I'm satisfied with being a manager."

Promoter **Hugh Nichols** of the Hollywood Legion Stadium was once rated the greatest pupil **Martin "Farmer" Burns** ever had. Hugh is staging outstanding cards for the Californian fans.

Leo Garabaldi's son **Gino**, was in serious condition with polio 3 years ago when he first started out. Leo has since become the Junior Heavyweight Champion of California.

Don Eagle, who captured the Boston Championship from **Frank Sexton**, has successfully defended it against **Primo Carnera**. Don's father, who manages the boy, was offered 75,000 dollars for his contract. His father turned it down saying, "Don makes twice as much a year."

Dean Detton, "The Mighty Mormon," is currently starring in and around California.

Mario De Souza, champion from Portugal, has made his debut in Boston. In this match he was outstanding, beating **Reb Russell**, a tough nut from down south.

Jack Dempsey, one-time heavyweight boxing champion, and now the most popular referee in the wrestling business, has recognised **Don Eagle** as world heavyweight champion. Said the Manassa Mauler, "Here is a true champion who neither smokes or drinks but sets a marvellous example for the youth of this country."

Two top South American wrestlers have been brought to this country by promoter **Fred Kohler** of Chicago. They are **Hombre Montana** and **Ramon Cernadas**. It seems there are more wrestlers coming from South America than going. **Cyclone Anaya** and **Argentina Rocca** were among the first to find fame and fortune in the United States.

The Great Zuma has retained his original name, **Carl Engstram**. Says Carl, "My friends who did not recognise me as Zuma are now cheering me on and I have my own rooting section."

The two most underated wrestlers in the country are **Ruffy Silverstein** and **Bill Darnell**.

Antonino Rocca's legs are said to be insured for $200,000.

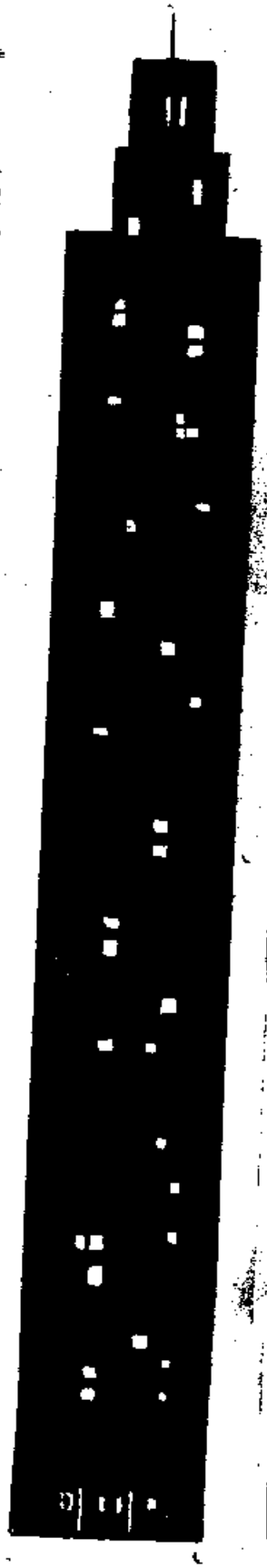
Pinkie George, former president of the National Alliance, was presented with a trophy and $1,000 cash gift from the N.W.A. The gifts were presented at a banquet in Des Moines, Iowa. George is one of the founders of the N.W.A.

After **Verne Gagne** defeated **Sonny Myers** in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the N.W.A. Junior Heavyweight Championship, **Leroy McGuirk** who formally held the title, presented Gagne with a gold belt encrusted with diamonds. Leroy was forced to retire after he was totally blinded in an automobile accident a year and a half ago. In receiving the award Gagne said, "I only hope that I can wear this belt with one half the greatness and modesty Leroy McGuirk did."

Columbia promoter, **Al Haft**, presents for the first time in wrestling, a big time tournament based solely on television. It is a women's wrestling tournament open to any woman anywhere. The tournament is being held for the purpose of finding the best logical challenger to meet champion **Mildred Burke**. All matches are two out of three falls with a time limit of 40 minutes. One loss eliminates the loser and the winner gets $2,000 and a crack at Mildred Burke. Mildred has held the championship undisputedly for 13 years. During this time she has not lost a match. On the contrary, when Mildred loses a fall it is a moral victory for the challenger.

Reputed to be the fittest man in American wrestling, MARVIN 'Atomic' MERCER, is seen here chatting with famous physical culture expert and publisher, BERNARD MACFADDEN, who selected Marvin as "Mr. Physical Culture."

MERCER'S 'Atomic' Dropkick has made him a great favourite with American fans, and he has a huge following among the more youthful of the wrestling supporters. As his contribution to youth, Marvin Mercer is organising "Marvin—Mr. Physical Culture—Mercer Clubs" throughout America, to instil into young men and women a greater regard for the body and the acceptance by them of the responsibility for keeping themselves strong and healthy.



John Pesek is amazing fans all over the country with his top notch wrestling. His son, **Jack**, travels with him and has all the promise of becoming an even greater figure in the world of wrestling than was his father before him.

Four million men, women and boys lift weights in the United States.

Wrestlers are in my opinion the most intelligent athletes as far as education goes. **Stanislaus Zybysko** was in his native land a lawyer and master of 12 languages. George **Hackenschmidt** was an author and philosopher of note. **Ed "Strangler" Lewis** was an all round athlete at Kentucky University, excelling in basketball, football, baseball, and of course wrestling.

There have been many lists of the top wrestlers in the country. The following is the Newsreel's conception of the top 25 in the country. The list is compiled principally on the matter of records. It is an up-to-date listing and for this reason both **Leroy McGuirk** and **Orville Brown**, who would have otherwise been included, are not listed. We don't believe we can satisfy everyone but nevertheless we think it is fairly accurate as far as wins and losses are concerned. This listing is only of the grapplers wrestling in North America:—

1 Lou Thesz, 2 Antonino Rocca, 3 Don Eagle, 4 Yvon Robert, 5 Frank Sexton, 6 Yukon Eric, 7 Buddy Rogers, 8 Primo Carnera, 9 Gene Stanlee, 10 Bill Watson, 11 Bob Managoff, 12 Gorgeous George, 13 Wladeck Kowalski, 14 Larry Moquin, 15 Bill Longson, 16 Ernie Dusek, 17 Bill Varga, 18 Verne Gagne, 19 Steve Stanlee, 20 Fred Atkins, 21 Bronko Nagurski, 22 Gino Garabaldi, 23 Lord Carlton, 24 Ruffy Silverstein, 25 Sheik Lawrence.

Chief Thunderbird for Earls Court!

Two Big Programmes for London

On April 2nd and April 23rd, two of the biggest wrestling bills ever presented in Great Britain will take place at Earl's Court, London. As we go to press comes news that on April 2nd eliminating contests to find a challenger for Alan Colbeck's Welterweight Title will take place, eight of the leading British Welterweights contesting off for the honour of meeting Colbeck.

This will be one of the most thrilling exhibitions yet seen in the capital.

And to add to the interest of fans in the South, famous Indian wrestler **Chief Thunderbird** is to wrestle the tough **Pat O'Reilly** in the top of the bill contest. This should be a battle royal. The Red Indian warrior has made a terrific reputation for himself in this country in the wrestling ring, and due to his broadcasts over the B.B.C. is probably the best known Indian Chief ever to visit Great Britain. Everywhere he has appeared there has been 'house full' signs displayed long before starting time, and there is no doubt he is a fine wrestler. He is Chief of the Sannich tribe of Indians.

O'Reilly is in need of no introduction to London fans. He is a big strong man, capable of standing the most arduous pace. He should give Chief Thunderbird a very hard contest, and whoever wins, the verdict will be a narrow one.

And then on April 23rd, there is yet another tremendous bill. Famous American star, **Frank Sexton** is expected to be facing that great Yorkshireman, **Ernest Baldwin** of Wakefield, a wrestler of international fame, and one who holds a decision over Bert Assirati, a draw with Ivan Martinsen, the man who k.o.'d Assirati, a decision over the famous Lord Blears, and a draw against the legendary Frenchman Charles Rigoulot. He has also met practically every wrestler on the international horizon, and there is no more worthy opponent for Sexton. The American is a big man, nicknamed "The Ohio Powerhouse," due to his terrific strength. He will find that Baldwin, dour Yorkshireman whose displays have earned him acclamation throughout Europe, possesses a strength and stamina equal to his own, and there is no doubt that this also will be a bill well worth seeing.

Baldwin is at present leading in the Mat Popularity Poll which is being organised to find out who is Britain's most popular wrestler.

★ MAT Popularity Poll

Still leading the poll in Great Britain is Ernest Baldwin of Wakefield, though the gap has been closed since last month. New names have appeared in the first ten, and one or two who were in the list last month have either moved down and disappeared from the placings or moved into better positions. Thanks for the letters from all those fans who wrote in to us. They help us a lot to gauge public re-action to the wrestlers appearing in the rings up and down the country. Now the FINAL day of entry in this Popularity Poll is fixed for February 28th. Any entry reaching our office after that date will not be included in the final placings. Don't wait until February 27th before posting off your opinion on this important matter. DO IT TO-DAY!

One important fact has emerged from readers' letters, and that is, that many foreign wrestlers at present in Great Britain are listed fairly high. There are so many foreign wrestlers in the U.S.A. and Canada, that it would be impractical to run an additional section to cover fans' opinions on the question, but as far as Great Britain is concerned, we shall do this in order to give a more accurate measure of your ideas.

Great Britain:

ERNEST BALDWIN, THE FARMER, DAVE ARMSTRONG, NORMAN WALSH, GEORGE KIDD, JOHNNY STEAD, SANDY ORFORD, ALAN COLBECK, JIM ANDERSON, JACK BEAUMONT.

Foreign Wrestlers in Great Britain.

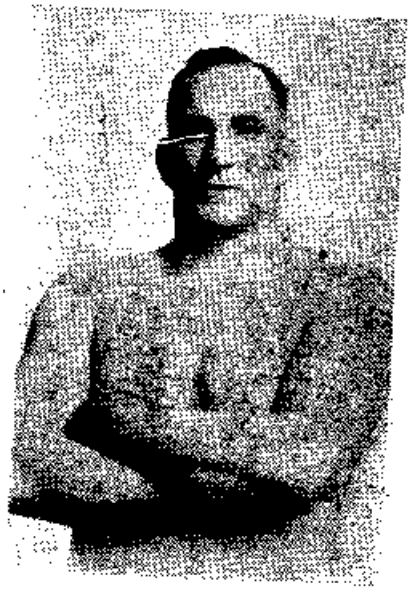
MIKE DEMITRE (Greece), JEAN MORANDI (Normandy), EMILE POILVE (France), TONY VALLON (Italy), HASSAN ALI BEY (Egypt), BOB MACMASTERS (Australia), CHIEF THUNDERBIRD (Canada), MIKE MARINO (Italy), KWANGO (Africa), JOHN GRANT (West Indies).

North America.

FRANK SEXTON, BUDDY ROGERS, LARRY MOQUIN, WALTER PALMER, WHIPPER WATSON,

LORD BLEARS, BOB ADDESSKY, BILLY GOELZ, ANTONINO ROCCA, LOU THESZ,

Douglas Clark dies at his home in Huddersfield



NOT only wrestling, but the vast sporting world in general, lost one of its greatest men when Douglas Clark passed away suddenly at his home in Huddersfield on the 1st of February, 1951, aged fifty-nine.

The older generation of wrestling fans on the Continent, in Australasia and in his beloved Britain will again conjure up memories of his performances in the ring, and it is these tales of his prowess, handed down from father to son as they must inevitably be, that will, in time, make him a legendary figure.

Nature endowed him with exceptional strength, and it was a daily spectacle in Huddersfield to see him, while on his rounds as a coal merchant, carrying a hundredweight bag under each arm. In his native Cumberland—he was born in Ellenborough in May, 1891—he is reputed to have broken the neck of a bull which cornered him in a field.

Another great name in wrestling circles, the late George de Relwyskow, who managed Douglas in his early days, once said of him that he was the greatest wrestler in England and a contender for even greater honours. How true his words turned out to be!

Clark had a very impressive record in both professional and Cumberland and Westmorland styles.

He was the first holder of the T. Herbert Kaye world championship belt when he kayoed the famous Belgian heavyweight, Laurent Gerstmans, at the Fartown Football Ground, Huddersfield in 1933.

He later successfully defended his British title against such wrestlers as Bernardi Esseratti, Paul Alcort, Karl Rolet and Mitchell Gill.

It was not until his Australian tour of 1936 that he met his master. Tom Lurich, the Russian champion, was the man to whom the honour went, but it was a great tribute to Clark's prowess as a wrestler and to his strict physical fitness routine—he was a non-smoker and a teetotaller—to remain undefeated for so long. He was by that time 45 years old and past his best.

Clark, however, won five out of eight contests with Lurich on the tour.

Douglas, too, might easily hold the record for the quickest win in a championship match, for, on June 6th, 1931, he pinned the self-styled undefeated middleweight champion of the world and light-heavyweight champion of the world, Johanfesson, twice inside the breath-taking space of 73 seconds.

Clark was also the Cumberland and Westmorland champion for a number of years and won the Rawnsley Cup outright in the annual Grasmere

As a forward with the great Huddersfield Rugby League side he will be remembered as a mighty man who often carried three or four opponents with him over the line.

As an opponent he was as generous as he was powerful and his great physique and strong moral convictions combined to make him a great personality.

He had attended a Methodist Chapel, he played chess, and was interested in Art, revealing that brain went along with brawn, and his conduct off the sporting field was as irreproachable as it was on.

ALAN G. THOMPSON.

Arthur Clarence.

Mr. Arthur Clarence, well known M.C., has been absent from the ring for several weeks due to injuries sustained in a car accident. He is one of the outstanding personalities of the sport, and we send him our very best wishes for a speedy recovery.

Speaking to George de Relwyskow Jnr. the other day, he told us he will be opening a gymnasium at North Street, Leeds, in the very near future. This is good news indeed, for there cannot be too many gymnasiums for keeping the aspiring and budding champions in good shape.

ONLY THE BEST REACH THE TOP

GRAHAM GUTHRIE picks three examples of failure and tries to find the reasons

NOT very long ago, when I was acting as Master of Ceremonies at a seaside tournament, I had the unhappy task of actually finding apologies to the clients for the most obvious and miserable failure on the part of a wrestler even to hold his own in a contest. This very rare occurrence would be absolutely impossible in these days of licensing, for every man has to be passed by a committee before being allowed to enter the ring as a professional wrestler, which protects the public as well as the men concerned.

To return to the case above, it was obvious that the man could not do his best because the audience was affecting his nerves. In the gymnasium he had proved a strong and knowledgeable wrestler with a fair amateur record. He had good appearance and all the necessary attributes which make a good average performer just a little bit better. But, once he heard the first bell, and the sound of the crowd, he seemed to forget all that he knew. The crowd grew less and less tolerant of him; gave his every action the 'bird,' with the result that he became more and more confused. Finally, his opponent threw him twice with simple primary moves, and won by two straight falls. Quite naturally, the public voiced its disapproval—for after all, a bout is a quarter of the programme—and the lad received no further engagements. This case is perfectly simple, but there are others which require further investigation. Let me cite three that have come into my own experience.

The first was a heavyweight who did not actually fail to climb the tree, but whose climb ceased halfway up and stayed put. He was well versed in the ways of professional wrestling and had appeared on programmes all over the country. His pre-war record was good, if not sensational. The secret lay in one thing, the progress of wrestling itself. This man had not moved with the times and, although still capable of looking after himself with the best his style was not acceptable. Another thing against him was his short temper. In other days, perhaps, when rulings were not so strict, it could be of advantage to a man to fight like a fury, but it is now quite fatal to lose the coolness that is so essential to success. We find therefore, that this first failure is due to an incapacity to move with the times.

The second brings us more up-to-date. We see a man of twelve and a half stones, with a really magnificent physique. His knowledge of wrestling science is quite sufficient for his needs, and his personality is pleasant. But that physique is the cause of failure in this case. He, fully aware of his build, which years of training and conscious effort had perfected, was inclined to pose too often, rather than to continue with the serious business of defeating an opponent. Taking any standing lock—a hammerlock or an Indian Deathlock—he would adopt a statuesque posture, better suited to the display of rippling muscle which was the most striking effect, than to the best application of the lock in question. The result could not be more obvious; nine times out of ten, the opponent would apply a quick counter while our poseur was readjusting his thinking processes to the match. Who could possibly succeed at two things at once? When one is engaged in a wrestling contest, no other thing matters nor, indeed, can be allowed even to exist, apart from the actual business of winning the bout. To allow one's attention to wander from this for one moment is as good as returning to one's corner and putting on hat and coat. There, then, is the cause of one more failure to make the grade.

The third can be summed up more briefly. It is a sorry story, for it could have been the account of a world-beater. What is there in the human composition more pitiful than the will to succeed coupled with the secret knowledge that success can never be, because of an inborn lack of the most necessary quality of all? Who can tell the frustration of having victory snatched from one at the last minute, because the going became too tough and the spirit failed to meet the challenge? Yes, the uncharitable could call it 'lack of guts,' but it is the worst possible construction that can be put upon a psychological disability which can very rarely be beaten. Some characters can overcome everything, but the one person in that number who tries and fails cannot be condemned for his failure. Of course, in wrestling where there is present the danger of injury, such a failing is utterly fatal. Nobody can enter a ring and do his best when he has not the courage to take his mind away from the possibilities of every one of his adversaries' moves. It is a great pity, for this one fault robbed us of one of the greatest prospects of recent years.

Examining these cases teaches us that the smallest fault in the make-up of one who would take up wrestling as a means of livelihood, can assume far greater importance in this field of endeavour than in any other. That is because wrestling calls forth every good quality in a man, and discovers his weaknesses in the most glaring fashion. Can you, as an enthusiast for this sport, believe the carpings of those who would have you think the wrestlers to be less than the beasts of the jungle. When you read those sombre criticisms, remember this record of failures and think of the tiny causes which ensure that only the best reach the top.

Here's one who did reach the top!

YVON ROBERT of Canada, perhaps the greatest Canadian grappler of all time, who has been at the helm in Canadian wrestling circles for many years, and due to keeping himself in perfect shape at all times is likely to be well to the forefront for many years to come.

Where do we stand in our world ratings? That's a question we are frequently asked by wrestling fans. American fans write us and ask why we never announce this or that wrestler as World Champion and they assure us that this or that wrestler is recognised as World Champion. Not only American, but British and other fans ask us these questions too!

World titles are much too important to 'hang' on to wrestlers ad lib, and as far as the main title of all is concerned, that of the World Heavyweight Championship, we do not recognise any of those who may lay claim to, or may be billed as World Champion.

We have stated before, that different countries are perfectly entitled to recognise their own national Champions, but until such time that all countries have been consulted in the matter we cannot give world recognition to any particular wrestler. ... ...

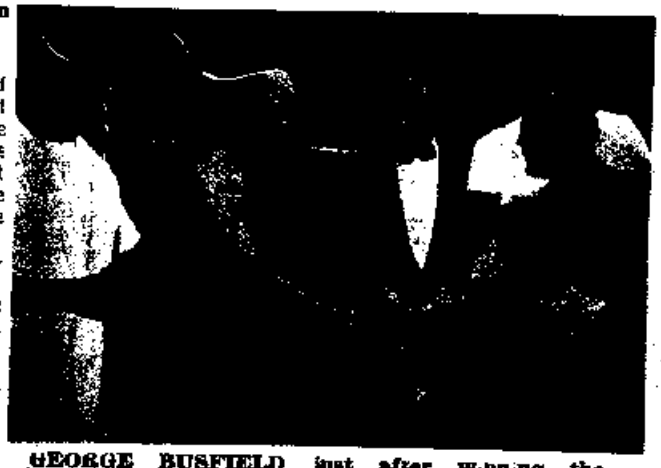
Let's Look in at those Controversial Ratings . .

An Analysis of the present position in Great Britain by NORMAN F. BERRY, Mat Editor.

It is obvious to me as I sit reading hundreds of letters daily that there is a general feeling that it is high time this business of 'who's who' in the Championship line-up was settled in such a way as to leave no shadow of doubt anywhere. And I must say I agree with this point of view. I believe we are well on the way to just such a solution of the problem.

Since we published our list of the Official Mount-Evans Champions, some promoters have been pushing forward other wrestlers for recognition. We would like to emphasise that we were dealing with wrestlers who have competed for Admiral Lord Mount-Evans Championship Belts.

As a result of meetings between wrestling authorities no one has been nominated to contest **George Busfield's** Featherweight Title.



GEORGE BUSFIELD just after winning the Featherweight Championship at Earl's Court, last year.

LIGHTWEIGHT CLASS.

The lightweight position is something of an anomaly, for whilst **George Kidd** of Dundee holds the World and European Titles, **Johnny Stead**, that fine wrestler from Bradford holds the British Title. The coming months ahead calls for a clearing up of this position.

WELTERWEIGHT CLASS.

The Welterweight Class is a very controversial question. Here we have **Alan Colbeck** of Wakefield holding the Championship Belt, with Southern Area challenger **Mick MacManus** ready to dispute the issue. Up in Lancashire we have that great wrestler **Cliff Belshaw**, a man who could no doubt adapt himself to the Mount-Evans Style and would constitute a very big threat to Colbeck's title. Back in the South is **Johnny Peters**, a wrestler who has been very near the top for so long that he is bound to be seriously considered when discussing Welterweight Champions. **Jack Dempsey** of Wigan must not be overlooked, neither must Welshman **Les Stent**, a great battler who can, and does, always acquit himself well in the ring, and one with a 'big match' temperament too. And then there are **Carlton Smith** and **Fred Woolley** in this class too. What a galaxy of good men in this class weight.

Alan Colbeck will certainly have to keep on top form to withstand the challenge of these men. It's up to him to answer all challenges at every opportunity and to leave no doubt in the minds of anyone as to who is the kingpin in the Welterweight division.

MIDDLEWEIGHT CLASS.

Harry Fields, Knowles-Peters, Vic Coleman, Jim Holden, Les Kellett, Tommy Mann, Chic Purvey, and **Len Britton,** are all men who have to be seriously considered in the Middleweight Class. **Jack Beaumont** holds the Mount-Evans Title at this weight and famous mat star **Jack Dale** is classed as champion catch wrestler.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CLASS.

In the Light-Heavyweight division are plenty of good men ready to dispute the title. Amongst the leading men—and every one of them has supporters amongst the fans who swear by the qualities of their favourites—are **Arthur Ricardo, Dennis Mitchell, Charlie Fisher, Tony Baer, Jim Anderson, Tim McCoy, Bill Ogden, Tommy Pye, Lew Roseby** and **Eric Taylor.** These are the men who could probably be called upon to sort out the Light-Heavyweight Title, and should take part in eliminating contests in an effort to find an undisputed British Champion. Manchester's **Alf Cadman** must be considered a very serious threat to any wrestler aspiring to lift this title, for he is young, yet experienced, and can stand the pace no matter how hard it is.

CRUISERWEIGHT CLASS.

Cruiserweight (15 stone) **Norman Walsh** tops, with a host of first-class challengers, including **David Jons, Ron Johnson, Bob MacDonald** and **Billy Joyce,** and any of the lower weight men who believe they can compete successfully in this class. It must not be forgotten that any man may compete in a weight class above his own he wishes, but a man may not move down to a lower weight class unless his weight falls below the maximum weight for that class.

HEAVYWEIGHT CLASS.

With **Bert Assirati** temporarily suspended in the Heavyweight division, this would be a good time to indulge in a little selection. If, and when his suspension is lifted, he would then be called upon to take part in a further contest at a later date.

Now here is a difficult task. In Great Britain to-day there is a host of men who qualify for any eliminating bouts. There is **Ernest Baldwin, The Farmer, Pat O'Reilly, Sandy Orford, Dave Armstrong, Vic Hesselle, Jim Hussey, Ron Jackson, Dai Sullivan,** and several others who would have to be

carefully considered. From these men it is possible to arrive at a challenger for the title. Promoter Athol Oakley has **Frank Mantovich** ready to tussle in this class too, and altogether it would be a very worthy champion who emerged from this list.

To sum all this up, let us have champions at each weight who are undisputed throughout Great Britain and who are recognised everywhere. Let us have these titles settled under the finest wrestling rules yet devised and approved in the history of wrestling —the Admiral Lord Mount-Evans Rules.

There are already Mount-Evans Champions at various weights with the two important Cruiserweight and Heavyweight titles undecided as yet. Let us have these settled as soon as possible and let the claimants to title fights in other styles be given the opportunity of meeting the Champions already established at the earliest moment.

THE AMERICAN HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

In the U.S.A. most of the wrestling is in the heavier classes only, and the possibilities of getting any uniform recognition of champions is much further off than in Great Britain. Due to the area involved it is much more difficult there to settle outstanding championship problems. If the American heavyweight title were to be contested in the near future, we believe that the men who have earned the right to take part in eliminating contests would be as follows:—

Lou Thesz, Frank Sexton, Walter Palmer, Don Eagle, Lord Blears, Gene Stanlee and Marvin Mercer.

Readers may not be able to understand why we do not include men like **Antonino Rocca** amongst these names. They must appreciate that Rocca is a South American wrestler, and that other well known stars now in America are not naturalised Americans, and so, in our opinion, would not be eligible for the American title. This is mainly a problem for American authorities to settle. Naturally, it would take considerably longer than in Great Britain due to distances involved, but it needs settling before any universally recognised world champion appears.

Douglas Clark - a Tribute

Who amongst the older generation of wrestling fans has not heard the name of Douglas Clark, mighty wrestler of two generations ago whose fame is written in the annals of wrestling in indelible fashion?...I dare say that in Great Britain there are very few sportsmen who have not listened at some time or other to stories of the ring exploits of this great Cumberland wrestler, Champion in the Cumberland and Westmorland style in his amateur days and Professional Champion of Great Britain when he turned to the paid ranks of wrestling....He was not only a great wrestler but a great rugby forward as well, playing for Huddersfield and England with outstanding success.

I used to watch Douglas wrestle when I was a schoolboy and remember how thrilled I was to watch this mighty man as he struggled in the ring. I was not the only boy who admired him. Every schoolboy in those days knew of him and to many of them he provided an ideal. He fought in many contests, always giving a good account of himself against the cream of the world's wrestlers, his endurance under strain being something to marvel at. His powerful frame took its toll on many bigger adversaries, and the 'old timers' of wrestling will never forget him.

Of his many matches in the ring I need say nothing. They are known. Who he met and how he fared are matters of wrestling history. It is enough to say that he had a great record.

He was 59 years of age when he died, being born at Ellenborough, Cumberland in 1891. His remains were taken back to his native county after a service in Huddersfield. Douglas Clark was a personal friend of mine, and I feel that I speak for wrestlers throughout Great Britain and the world when I say, that though the association be severed through his untimely death the memories of this great sportsman will remain with us for years to come. He did a great deal to help popularise wrestling and contributed in no small measure towards the success of present day wrestling. I am proud to be one of a fraternity he graced so splendidly in his younger days, and am pleased to be able to pay this small tribute to Douglas, one of the best men who ever trod the mat.

ERNEST BALDWIN.

CORRECTION!

Due to a report from one of our reporters, based we suspect on a 'dressing room joke,' Les Kellett, ace referee, has nearly lost his right hand through the hearty handshakes of thousands of fans who have been rushing to congratulate him on his engagement, his marriage and his plans to settle down in Newcastle. Now it's bad enough to be slapped on the back, gripped by the hand and jostled around by well wishers if it's true, but when it isn't true it's apt to become a nuisance.

Despite all his protestations, nobody would take any notice of him, and every time he's shown his face near a wrestling hall he's had a repeat performance of hand shaking etc.

So in the interest of truth—and out of consideration for Les—we hasten to correct our former statement and tell you that Les is neither married nor engaged, that he is unlikely to be domiciled in Newcastle and that if there is any change in his status that he himself will make the announcement. He hopes this will put things back to normality and remove all excuses for back slapping and the crushing of fingers.

Well, this could have just ——————

AUSTRALIAN Commentary

by
T. A. GANNON
Our Australian Correspondent

ROY HEFFERMAN - Mr. AUSTRALIA

ROY HEFFERMAN of Australia, said by fans 'down under' to be stronger and better looking than America's Gene Stanlee.

IN 1948, a contest was held in Sydney to decide who should wear the title of "Mr. Australia." The contest was open to all comers and among the entrants was Roy Hefferman, a handsome young wrestler and weightlifter from Mascot. Heavy entries were received from athletes wishing to display their physical development but when the final judging was made, the winner was Hefferman whose superb physique surpassed by far those of the other contestants.

Roy Hefferman was born at Lithgow, New South Wales, on 12th July, 1925, and his interest in wrestling and bodybuilding dates back to his schooldays. He started bodybuilding exercises at the age of twelve and three years later was recognised as the world's strongest youth. At the age of fourteen he became interested in wrestling and joined the amateurs. At weightlifting he became so proficient that at the age of eighteen he won the Australian Light-Heavyweight Weightlifting Championship. The following year he added to his laurels by winning the New South Wales Light-Heavyweight Wrestling Championship against a strong field of accomplished amateur wrestlers.

When he turned twenty, Roy tossed in his amateur status and joined the ranks of the professionals. At 186 pounds, he clashed with the best in the country and his tremendous strength, knowledge of the science of wrestling and his good looks and perfect build made him a great attraction. For his professional debut he was matched with Ron Newton, a tough and experienced opponent with a long list of victories behind him. Roy emerged the winner when Newton was unable to continue in the third round. After six months of wrestling, Hefferman was dissatisfied with his weight and went into retirement for a year to concentrate ond bodybuilding. Intensive exercise followed and when he returned to the ring he scaled 213 pounds.

Mixing with the heavier matmen, Roy participated in many spectacular contests against opponents of the calibre of Jon Morro, Alf Vockler, George O'Brien, Harry Woodhill, Ken Hawthorne, Bob George and a host of other first-class local grapplers. Just when it seemed that promoters must give him his chance against the imported wrestlers, disaster struck. Roy was involved in a motor cycle accident and sustained a broken leg. A lesser man would have given up his wrestling career but Roy Hefferman is made of stern stuff. Unable to support any weight on his legs, Roy continued his body building by lying on his back and lifting heavy weights.

Fully recovered, Roy recently returned to wrestling and during his convalescence, managed to build his weight up to 231 pounds which made him a fully fledged heavyweight. The Australian Adonis has contributed a new hold to wrestling in the Suspension Drop. The hold is so severe that the other wrestlers attempted to have it barred but it is perfectly legal and the promoters have ruled that he may continue to use it. When Roy applies the Suspension Drop it always means the end of the match as no opponent yet has been able to continue after a sample of this deadly hold.

Recently a number of strongmen and well built athletes challenged Hefferman for the "Mr. Australia" title and it is possible that he will defend it in 1951. Among the challengers are wrestlers Ray Hunter and Ray Anderson, and physical culture experts Charles Rowell of England Frank Filby. The measurements of "Mr. Australia" are: Height 5ft. 9ins., Weight 231lbs., Chest 51ins. (normal), Biceps 18½ins., Thighs 28½ins., Calves 18½ins., and Waist 34 ins. Roy Hefferman is a great favourite with the lady fans and a number of members of the fairer sex have asked him to start a Roy Hefferman Fan Club.

SELF-STYLED "KING OF THE MAT," JACK PYE CERTAINLY LOOKS THE PART IN THIS RECENT PICTURE OF HIM. WHO CROWNED HIM WE DON'T KNOW, BUT WE KNOW THERE ARE VERY MANY PEOPLE WHO HAVE LONGED TO SEE HIM CROWNED FOR QUITE A LONG TIME NOW, AND WE DO HOPE THIS LITTLE EFFORT MAKES THEM FEEL BETTER ABOUT IT!

Glamazons of The Ring

By DOYLE G. RUSSELL

DOYLE G. RUSSELL.

THE ancient but always young sport of wrestling has once again arisen to a dominant place among the American—and World—sports. The powerful ally which did much to achieve this victory is Television which permits practically every person to have for himself an eye-witness account of any and all of our major athletic activities. Wrestling is possibly the only major sport which has welcomed T.V. with open arms. The small but very important man in the street has found that much that he had heard and read about wrestling was far from a true version of the situation. Multitudes are now rabid fans, a good per cent of whom have deserted their T.V. sets to attend the matches in person.

Without minimising the colour and popularity of the men it is beyond dispute that much of the credit for the increased interest is due to the girl wrestlers. Fans have learned that rather than fat, ugly, clumsy, unfeminine women as they had been led to believe, they find shapely and attractive girls who can execute a drop-kick or a body slam more adroitly than most of the men. They find that though the girls' matches usually are shorter in duration they pack more action into their bouts than most of the men and the gates the girls habitually draw are proof of their skill.

Any mention of the girl wrestlers is incomplete without including the hard working **BILLY WOLFE** who has the enviable though man-killing job of managing a good portion of these lovely but high-spirited and independent minded wrestlerettes.

Billy's champion is **MILDRED BURKE**, a trim but powerfully built 5ft. 2in. redhead who has held the crown for almost a decade and a half. At first Billy thought her too small to be a wrestler but changed his mind when he couldn't find anyone who could pin her. To date no one else has either. Outside the ring she is charming and cultured and a little boastful of her cooking ability.

MAE WESTON looks like a beautiful blue-eyed, black-haired co-ed but is the proud mother of two sons and has wrestled since 1936. Always a top challenger she is one of the roughest girls in the ring, but in private life is the daughter-in-law of a police captain.

JUNE BYERS is a stately green-eyed Texas girl and a drop-kick artist in the ring. Mother of a small boy she plans to promote wrestling matches when she retires—but does not intend to retire until she wins the championship.

JUANITA COFFMAN is a black-haired Indian girl, and one of the friendliest and prettiest in the game. A war widow and a mother, she is a rough girl in the ring. Favourite hold is the airplane spin.

NELL STEWART, a blonde Alabama beauty, was waiting tables to support her mother and younger brothers when she got the wrestling bug. Frequently called the No. 1 challenger, she is the only girl whom Mildred has been accused of avoiding. Among the smaller girls, she makes up in speed and roughness for her lack of size. Reputedly she is a man-hater.

HELEN HILD, an ex-model and movie extra, is tall, slim and rugged. Most opponents can toss her around but it takes a good one to pin her. She seems to have a jinx on mighty Nell Stewart in their famous Battles of the Blondes.

VIOLET VIANN, pert, brown-haired and smallest of the girls in the troop. Strictly a scientific wrestler she has a good record against even the largest girls even though they go "all out" to pin her. She says she has no matrimonial plans because "men and wrestling don't mix." Many of the others would not agree.

SHIRLEY STRIMPLE, honey-blonde daughter of a trapeze artist, was born on a circus lot and has worked there. However, she says, "You don't fall quite so far in wrestling."

DOT DOTSON, creamy complectioned Florida taxicab driver, who attracted the attention of a promoter who saw her overpower a passenger who attacked her. Tall, she likes to use an overhead body slam.

CECELIA BLEVINS, shapely Indian girl, who forsook nursing to wrestle. Likes to use the giant swing.

THERESE THIES, one of the tallest and prettiest she says, "In St. Paul everyone skates or wrestles; I skate and wrestle, too."

ELLEN OLSEN, born in Sweden, and former night club dancer, is a wrestler and artist. She says that though she loves to paint on canvas she prefers to pin opponents to it.

LILLIAN ELLISON, who has a bush of beautiful black hair, is adept with the flying head scissors and likes to jump over the ropes into the ring.

MAE YOUNG, a colourful veteran of the wrestling ring, who also is an Evangelist. One of the roughest girls in the ring, she is saving money to build an orphanage.

BEV LEHMER, a year ago a high school girl in Council Bluffs, has wrestled at every opportunity in carnivals, small towns, etc. To-day she is meeting some of the best in the business and also shows promise of giving Nell and the other girls a race in the glamour department as well.

ARKIE MARTIN, a pretty ex-WAC and taxicab driver in Omaha, who wrestled with Bev many times when they were getting experience for the big time. Another rising star.

EVA LEE, a cute little blonde from Houston, with a beautiful little daughter. A newcomer who always seems to steal the show regardless of opponents.

LILLY BITTERS, a pretty and sedate young woman although she wrestles barefoot.

CHRISTINE RAY, a petite and freckled beauty who became so angry at a man wrestler's tactics in the ring that she took up wrestling herself. At 128 pounds she claims the lightweight title for the very good reason that she has never been defeated at that weight. She draws no weight line, however, and takes on all comers, anywhere.

THE LADY BLIMP, who claims to weigh 240 pounds. She offers to wrestle two opponents when she runs short of opposition and frequently wrestles men. She took up wrestling hoping to lose weight. "I lost fat but not weight," she says.

In another section of the country, a pair of beauties, blonde **CLARA MORTENSON** and brunette **RITA MARINEZ** are always ready to meet new opponents. Rita claims the Mexican championship but has never been able to pin Clara.

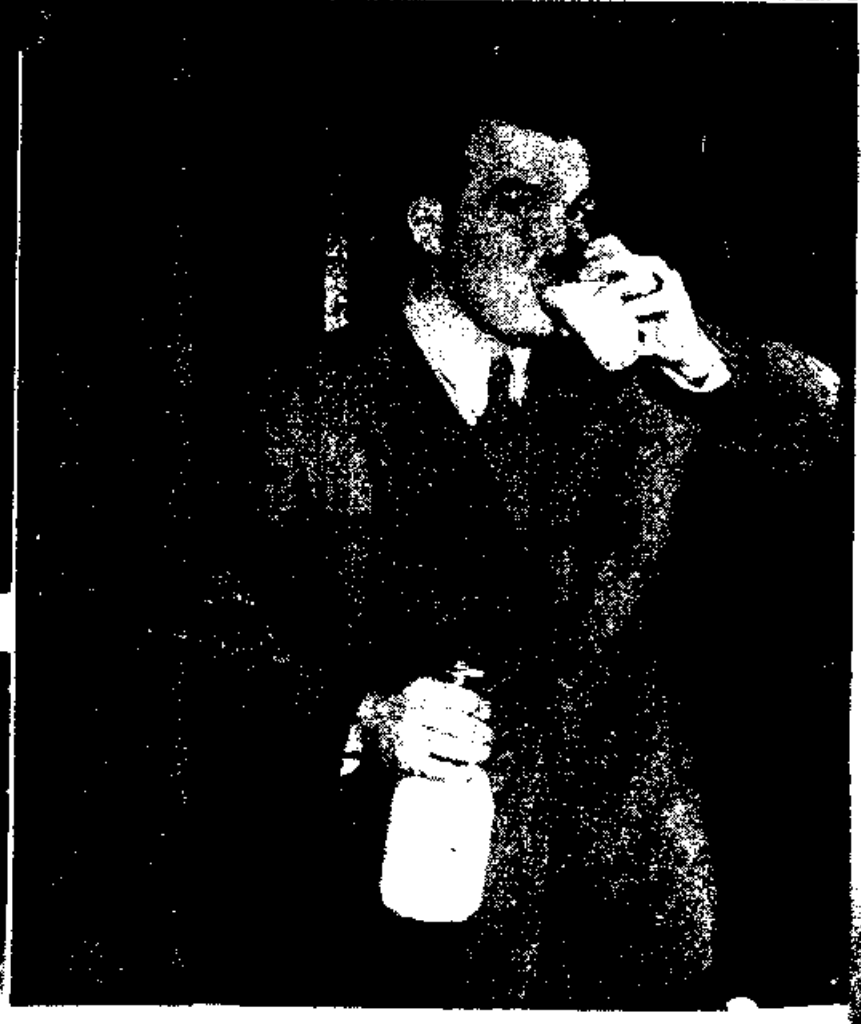
This is only a bare mention of some of the most prominent or most promising of the amazing group of girls who can put on such a skilful if ferocious match in the ring as to have their fans on their feet, yelling themselves hoarse. A few minutes afterwards they will emerge from their dressing rooms with their beautifully tailored clothes, carefully applied make-up, with every hair in place and their inevitable high heels.

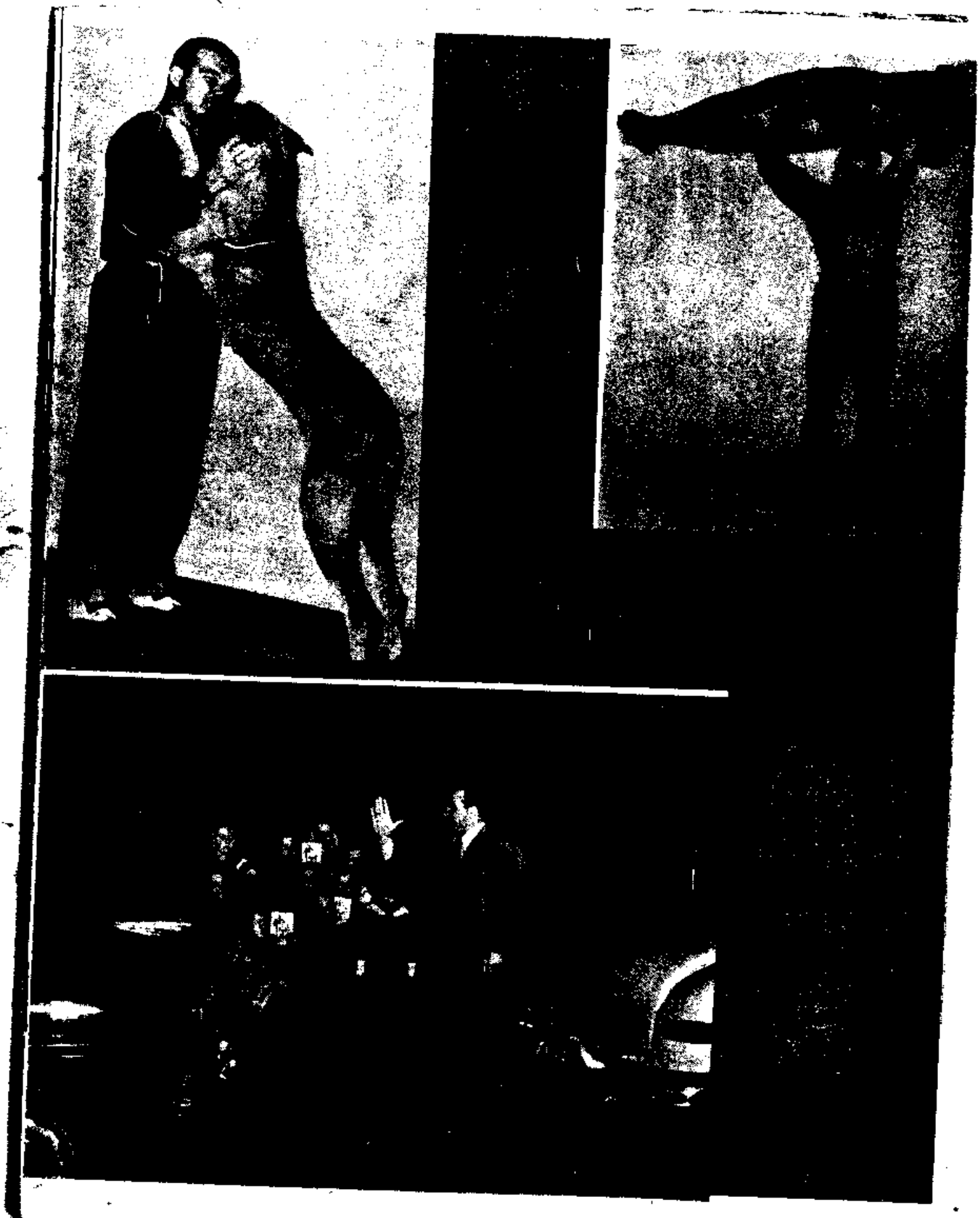
Rarely is there a bruise showing and if you did not know them you would swear that they had been doing nothing more strenuous than playing a game of bridge. The secret of course is their splendid physical condition and their constant training and the fact that only the cream of the crop of women athletes take up wrestling, or at least last very long in it.

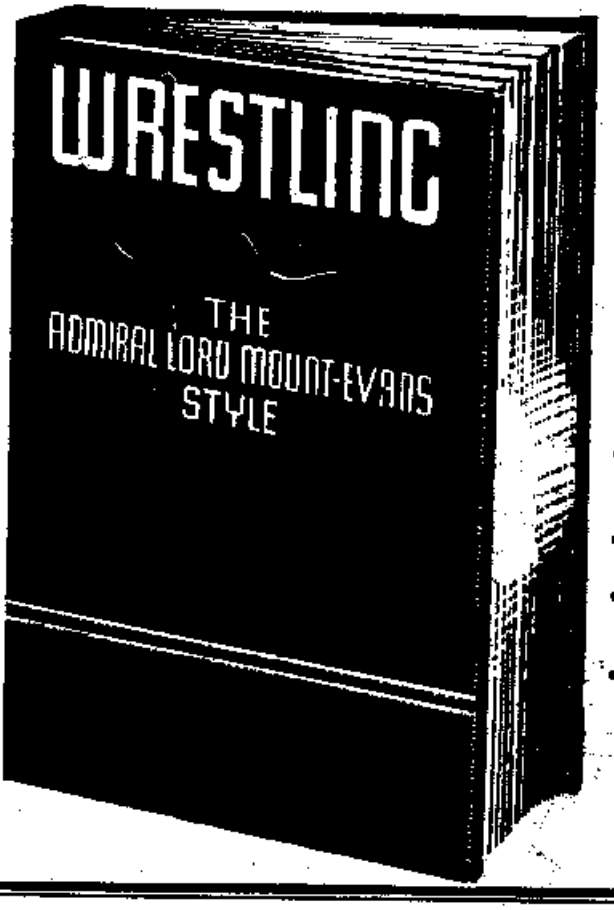
Even more amazing than this transformation is that you will find them to be cultured and well-bred and quite the opposite of what you have always expected of women athletes. In this respect they compare quite favourably with any other class of women, athletic or otherwise. In a beauty contest for girls in sports the wrestlerettes would win in a walk. This glamour has its disadvantages, of course, as the wolf never suspects that the slick chick he sees is a wrestler. What happens if the wolf is too persistent? The reporters asked this question of June Byers recently and much to their surprise she answered demurely, "I call a cop." That is true in most cases but sometimes it is the would-be wolf who winds up calling for help. The girls are very careful of bad publicity and go to great extremes to avoid it.

All over the English speaking world, people are reading MAT. There are, of course, other magazines available for the wrestling fan, and several of them are good publications. But MAT is recognised as the 'Bible' of wrestling by wrestlers and by fans alike, and consequently is sought after by all with any interest in the sport.

We give reports from many countries, and thus help those with an intelligent interest to get a better view of the world wrestling scene. The days when readers wanted to know only about their local wrestlers has long since departed, and to-day they wonder what the wrestlers in far off lands are like. That we endeavour to tell them via MAT, and we are constantly on the look-out for news from all parts of the globe. If you have news and photos, wherever you are, why not send it along to us?







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